

# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



**APRIL 25, 2023**

*Upcoming City Events, Activities, and Updates*

## Human Resources Department

The Police Department welcomed a new employee on April 17th. John Howell was hired for the position of Police Officer.

The Fire Department welcomed two new employees on April 17th. Mark Mata and Daniel Regan were hired for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic. The Fire Department will be promoting three employees on June 10th. Megan Leighman will be promoted to the position of Battalion Chief. Charles Brummett will be promoted to the position of Lieutenant and Nicholas Olson will be promoted to the position of Driver/Operator.

The Parks Department welcomed two new lifeguards and a cashier. Nathan Cassidy was hired on April 10th and Diego Plata was hired on April 18th for the position of Lifeguard and Arissa Erickson was hired for the position of Cashier on April 21st. The Parks Department will be welcoming a new employee on May 1st. Alexandra Beaver will begin employment as the Recreation Manager.

The Pet Adoption Center welcomed a new employee on April 24th. Latasha Canton was hired for the position of Animal Services Officer.

The Public Works Department welcomed a new employee on April 24th. Alejandro Gonzalez Salcedo was hired for the position of Water Service Worker.

The City hosted an employee Financial Wellness Lunch and Learn on April 14th presented by Patrick Wallace of Gardner Wallace Financial.

New Employee Orientation was held on April 14th beginning at City Hall. Nine new employees were taken on a tour of the City and introduced to all the departments.

Two employees of the City received Kudos Awards. Finance Coordinator Kelsey Coffman received the award on April 6th, and Building Official Secretary Courtney Fye received the award on April 12th.

Dr. Shane Isdale, DC, from Corrective Chiropractic and Wellness is providing a Healthy Lunch and Wellness Education opportunity for City employees on May 12th.

Human Resources staff will be attending Career Day at Timber Ridge Elementary School on May 16th.

Human Resources staff will be attending a Mock Job Fair at Eastern Hills Middle School on May 17th.

The City is currently taking applications for the position of Juvenile Case Manager.

# The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library started the year off right with new programs and initiatives, and we are happy to keep going!

It is National Library Week April 23 - 29, 2023! The Library celebrates with a variety of materials, services, and programs designed to highlight Library services and to encourage a love of reading. Visit the Library for displays, programs, and more all week long. For a full list of programs, visit our website at [harkerheights.gov/library](http://harkerheights.gov/library). This year's theme is "There's More to the Story."



Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. Our Library lends things toys, outdoor exploration kits, and more. Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, crafting classes, and volunteer opportunities. Library infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

## Upcoming In-Person Preschool Programs at the Library:

Wednesday, April 26 at 10am – I Love Libraries Story-time (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy an early literacy treat with music and more at the Library!

Thursday, April 27 at 9am – I am An Artist Story-time (ages 3-6 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

Thursday, April 27 at 10am – I Am an Artist Toddler Time (ages 0-3 and their families) – Enjoy songs, rhymes, vocabulary, and age-appropriate activities for education and fun!

We highlight our Library with programs on our Library's Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/harkerheightspubliclibrary).

Wednesday, April 26 at 2pm – The Science of Reading with Ms. Heather

Thursday, April 27 at 6pm – Let's Make Something Awesome Virtual Family Night – Ms. Lisa takes a look at art! Enjoy songs, stories, and more while you learn a little!

# The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library

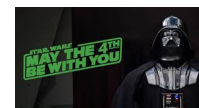
The Library is excited to be involved in the Parks and Recreation Art in the Park at Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 29 from 4-8pm! Drop by to experience art through music, facepaint, bubbles, recycled art, and more!



The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023, from 2-3pm for Friends members and 3-6pm for the public and on Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 8am-2pm for the public! Here is your chance to pick up books, audiobooks, games, and more at low prices. If you would like to donate items, please drop them off at the Library during our open hours. If you have more than you can carry inside the Library, then please call 254-953-5491 to set up a time to come by so that we can help you bring them in the staff entrance.



May the 4th Be With You! The Library celebrates all things Star Wars and space May 3-6, 2023. Enjoy a variety of come and go activities, displays, booklists, and more! Preschoolers ages 3-6 years and their families get ready for Space stories on Wednesday, May 3 at 10am and Thursday, May 4 at 9am. Toddlers ages 0-3 years and their families enjoy out of this world stories on Thursday, May 4 at 10am. Ms. Lisa shows you how to dress like a Jedi or Sith on the Library's Facebook page on Thursday, May 4 at 6pm. Dress up if you like or come as you are to the Library's Star Wars Day on Saturday, May 6 from 2-4pm. Meet costume characters, make your own paper saber, make Star Wars crafts, learn some space science, and take some Jedi and Sith training.



Adults register for the Art Play: a Five-Week Art Therapy Series! Meet on Thursdays May 4, 11, 18, and 25 and June 1, 2023 at the Library at 6:00 pm. Give yourself permission to play. No experience is necessary. All materials are provided. Call 254-953-5491 to sign up.

Caregivers and their children ages 3-6 years old are invited to join the Library for a program series aimed at school readiness! Registration is required and attendees must agree to attend the entire series. Work with Ms. Kay on fine motor skills, large motor skills, and literacy skills needed for school. Call 254-953-5496 to reserve your spot!

Did you know that you can view find genealogy resources through our Texas Share Databases 24/7? Just visit [harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library](http://harkerheights.gov/index.php/departments/library). Click on "Find Information" in the Quick Links menu. Then click on "TexShare." You will need your library card number to access the "Heritage Quest" database which provides information about getting started and search options!

# Parks & Recreation Department

## ACTIVITIES CENTER

- The Maker Space continues to be open at the Activities Center with fun craft materials for all to enjoy! Visit Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am – 3 pm and Saturdays 3 pm – 5 pm. Have any craft items that you no longer need? Feel free to donate them to the Maker Space.
- Check out the Game Room every Monday and Friday from 10 am – 3 pm for fun activities such as video games, puzzles, board games, and more!



## ATHLETICS

Registration for Summer Youth Flag Football is open until May 3!



Visit the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation website to see the new 2023 Youth Sports Calendar.

We're looking for volunteer coaches for our Youth Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball season! We are excited to announce a new partnership with the National Alliance for Youth Sports in an effort to ensure that youth sports coaches have all the tools necessary to be successful. We will require NAYS Coach Training and membership, which will be offered free of charge to head coaches for all of our youth league teams!

Our youth sports program don't happen without dedicated umpires, referees, and scorekeepers. Contact the Recreation Center if you would like more information on becoming one!



# Parks & Recreation Department

## SENIOR RECREATION

- **Celebrate Older Americans Month during the month of May with our Senior Recreation Program.**

- **Kickoff OAM – Lunch & Movie: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 / 11:30 am – 2:00 pm / Activities Center**
  - **Enjoy the movie *Going in Style* (PG-13) and lunch to kickoff Older Americans Month. Space is limited pre-registration required.**



- **Games Galore: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 / 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm / Recreation Center**
  - **Have an afternoon of fun with games and ping pong.**



- **Lunch & Learn: Friday, May 19, 2023 / 11:30 pm – 1:00 pm / Recreation Center**
  - **Learn some helpful information and enjoy lunch while listening to the guest speaker. Space is limited pre-registration required.**

- **Go Bananas: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 / 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / Recreation Center**
  - **Our staff is going bananas for our seniors. Seniors are invited to enjoy banana splits and ice cream sundaes.**



- **Sweets & Selfies: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 / 9:00 am – 4:00 pm / Recreation Center**
  - **Come by the Recreation Center, take a selfie, and pick up a baggie of candy (zero sugar) while supplies.**



## RECREATION CENTER



- **The Recreation Center is the Early Voting location for the local elections. Early Voting is April 24 – 28 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, May 1 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, and May 2 from 7:00am – 7:00pm.**

**Election Day is on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Recreation Center and polls will be open from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.**

- **The Folklorico Dance class will be wrapping up the Spring session on Wednesday, April 26 with a recital. The recital will be held at the Carl Levin Park Amphitheater at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and watch the talented participants. Bring a chair. In case of inclement weather, the recital will move to the Activities Center.**



# Parks & Recreation Department

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- The Volunteer Reception Ceremony was held last Thursday evening, April 13 at the Carl Levin Park. This ceremony is held every year to show our appreciation to our volunteers for all their hard work and dedication they do throughout the year. A BIG thank you to all departments for their help and our caterers, Yum Yums and Freebirds World Burrito for helping us with this event!



- Have any artwork that you would like to display and sell? Sign up to be a vendor at of Art in the Park at Carl Levin Park on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 4 pm – 8 pm. Free art activities, art vendors, food, live music, and more! For a vendor application, email [sgibbs@harkerheights.gov](mailto:sgibbs@harkerheights.gov).



- The Activities Center is partnering with the Harker Heights Police Department Healthy Homes Division for a Food Drive. Please help us collect non-perishable foods that will be served to families in need within our community. Drop off boxes are located at the Activities Center and at the Rec Center. Items needed are rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, and cereal. The drive will continue to accept donations from now through July 17.



- The Harker Heights Farmers Market start date is coming up! This season the market will be held every Saturday from May to October from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The application can be found through the webpage here <https://bit.ly/HHFMKT>. For more information, contact Sara Gibbs at [sgbbs@harkerheights.gov](mailto:sgbbs@harkerheights.gov).



# Parks & Recreation Department

## GET OUTDOORS (GO) HEIGHTS

- **I Love My Parks Day:** Thank you to those that assisted in beautifying Purser Family Park at I Love My Parks Day by painting railing, planting flower gardens, and picking up trash!



**Community Gardens:** Now is the time to get started with your spring gardening! Plots are available at Carl Levin Park Community Garden & Kern Park Community Garden. Rentals are for six months or one year. Kern Community Garden rentals are free, while Carl Levin fees are \$25 for 6months for residents or \$30 for 6 months for non-Harker Heights residents. Plot rentals for a year are \$50 for residents, or \$60 for non- Harker Heights residents. Stop by the Recreation Center on 307 Miller’s Crossing or the Activities Center on 400 Indian Trail to sign up. For more information, contact Kailie Gomez at [kgomez@harkerheights.gov](mailto:kgomez@harkerheights.gov) or call 254-953-5465.







City of Harker Heights  
Planning & Development  
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## Economic Development Report

### MARCH 2023 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued zero (0) commercial construction permit within the month of March.

**To date (March 31, 2023) the City has issued a total of two (2) commercial permits totaling \$5,140,000.00 in project valuation for calendar year 2023.**

#### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City issued a total of **ten (10)** permits for single-family residential construction within the month of March.

- 10 Single Family permits in Cedarbrook Ridge

The City issued a total of **two (2)** permits for two-family (duplex) residential construction within the month of March.

- 2 Two-Family permits in Wildewood Acres

**To date (March 31, 2023) the City has issued a total of twenty-six (26) residential permits, twenty-four (24) single-family permits, two (2) two-family permits, and zero (0) multi-family permits in calendar year 2023.**

As of March 31, 2023, the estimated population for the City of Harker Heights is **34,906** residents. According to the US Census, the population as of April 1, 2020 was 33,097 residents. Since that time, we have added 609 new water accounts with an average household size of 2.97.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

March 1 thru March 31, 2023

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Outside Storage	90	32.37%
Grass Parking	85	30.58%
Bulk Items	30	10.79%
Tires	15	5.40%
Brush	13	4.68%
Trailer	10	3.60%
Grass	8	2.88%
Fencing	5	1.80%
Skirting	5	1.80%
Junk Vehicle	4	1.44%
Maintenance	4	1.44%
Basketball Goal	3	1.08%
Other*	3	1.08%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	2	0.72%
Trash	1	0.36%
Boat	0	0.00%
Building Inspection	0	0.00%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Tree limbs	0	0.00%
Total	278	100.00%

\*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following: Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023

Violation Type	Quantity	Percentage
Grass Parking	450	35.16%
Outside Storage	289	22.58%
Bulk Items	138	10.78%
Grass	109	8.52%
Brush	74	5.78%
Tires	66	5.16%
Trailer	47	3.67%
Basketball Goal	16	1.25%
Trash	13	1.02%
Junk Vehicle	15	1.17%
Maintenance	14	1.09%
Fencing	14	1.09%
Skirting	12	0.94%
Heavy Vehicle Parking	7	0.55%
Boat	4	0.31%
Other*	7	0.55%
Tree limbs	3	0.23%
Building Inspection	2	0.16%
Rubbish & Trash Containers	0	0.00%
Total	1,280	100.00%

\*For Fiscal Year 22-23 the category "Other" includes the following:  
Stormwater Contamination; Illegal Dumping; Storage Containers; Lack of  
Permit for Work; Façade Maintenance; & Unpermitted Use of Property.